

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /092 W

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R 220317Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3891

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 1837

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH IN

SUBJ: SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS AND REPORTED TENSIONS ON SINO-SOVIET
BORDER

REF: HONG KONG 1731

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1. INCREASED CHINESE OPENNESS HAS CHARACTERIZED LATEST APPROACH

BY LOCAL PRC CADRE TO GOI OFFICIALS IN HONG KONG (REFTEL).
INDIAN COMMISSION FIRST SECRETARY CHANDRAN TOLD U.S CONGEN OFF
THAT IN A MEETING FEB 19 WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS EDITOR LAI
SHU-TONG OF PRC -OWNED HONG KONG WEN WEI PO, LAI VOLUNTEERED
SEVERAL INTERESTING COMMENTS. CHANDRAN TOLD LAI RE CURRENT PRC
"PEOPLE TO PEOPLE" APPROACH THAT SUCH VEHICLE COULD ONLY GO
SO FAR IN IMPROVING SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS. ONE REASON WAS
THAT WHEREAS CHINESE ARE FREE
TO VISIT AND MAKE CONTACTS WITH COMMON PEOPLE
IN INDIA, SAME DID NOT APPLY FOR INDIAN CONTACTS WITH PEOPLE IN
CHINA. LAI, WHO COVERED THE 4TH NPC DEVELOPMENT FOR WEN WEI PO
IN PEKING, RECENTLY, REPLIED "NEVER MIND, BETTER STATE-TO-STATE
RELATIONS ARE COMING". CHANDRAN THEN, FOR FIRST TIME ASKED WHAT
WAS TO BE DONE ABOUT THE KEY SINO-INDIAN BORDER ISSUE. LAI
RESPONDED THAT THE BORDER PROBLEM COULD BE DISCUSSED AND ATTENDED
TO PEACEFULLY, FOR THE INDIAN-CHINESE BORDER WAS PEACEFUL AND
THERE HAS BEEN NO TROUBLE. LAI THEN ADDED IN WORDS TO THE EFFECT
THAT "THIS IS NOT LIKE OUR BORDER SITUATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION
WHICH IS NOT PEACEFUL. HOWEVER, OUR PLA IS ALERT AND READY AND IS
VIGILANTLY PATROLLING THE BORDER IN SINKIANG AND THE SOVIETS
HAVE BEEN PROTESTING THIS PATROLLING". CHANDRAN SAID HE DID NOT
PRESS FOR FURTHER SOVIET-SINO BORDER INFORMATION LEST HE PUT
LAI ON GUARD.

2. CHANDRAN SAID THAT IN DISCUSSING INDIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS HE
TOOK FORTHRIGHT POSITION THAT WHILE INDIA WOULD NEVER BE A
"STOOGES FOR ANYONE", DELHI COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO SACRIFICE ITS
TIES WITH MOSCOW FOR SAKE OF IMPROVING SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS
ANYMORE THAN PEKING COULD BE EXPECTED TO SACRIFICE PAKISTAN TIES
FOR SAKE OF BETTER RELATIONS WITH DELHI. NEVERTHELESS, THERE
WAS NO REASON WHY INDIA AND CHINA COULD NOT IMPROVE RELATIONS
TO MUTUAL BENEFIT.

HE NOTED THAT LAI ASSENTED IN STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER TO THIS
STATEMENT.

COMMENT: THESE CLEARER PRC CADRE EXPRESSIONS OF CHINESE
INTEREST IN BETTER RELATIONS AND THE REPORT OF VICE PREMIER
CHEN HSI-LIEN'S STOPOVER IN CALCUTTA (HK 1731 AND USLO 0279)
HIGHLIGHTEN RAPPROACHMENT DISCUSSION PROSPECTS. LAI'S REMARKS
ABOUT THE TROUBLED STATE OF THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER COMPLEMENT
RECENT SOVIET REFERENCES TO "MAINTENANCE OF TENSIONS ON THE
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SINO-SOVIET BORDER" REPORTED IN MOSCOW 'S 1376, HOWEVER
FURTHER DETAILS ARE LACKING.
CROSS

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